BUCKET SHOP VICTIMS

AN INTERESTING ARTICLE ON HOW THE DEAL IS MEASURED OUT TO ONE AND ALL.

BRACE CAME NOT A CIRCUMSTANCE

The Victims for This Great Octopus Come From the North, South, East and West, and Comprise All Classes of People.

Boswell, the writer, and his friend, Dr. Johnson, stood in front of a bucketshop blackboard scanning market quotations. The doctor is near sighted and failed to grasp the situation.

"Is it weak or strong, Bozzy?" he inquired.

"Weaker than Mrs. Thrale's tea," replied Boswell.

"It will be stronger by and by," said the doctor. "When this generation, intent on buying, has put a lien on every available asset and gone into bankruptcy. then it will get strong."

"But why does not this generation sell and make money?" inquired Boswell, taking out his note book.

Dr. Johnson smiled. "Bozzy, you are of the genus 'chump,' " said he. "Now, I have not defined that word in my dictionary, but if the book runs through another edition I will do it. Knowest thou not, Bozzy, that this generation can sell, and be right on the market, and yet be reduced to a condition of penury com-pared with which the monkey is a capi-

Then, sir, you can as easily say that a man can buy on an advancing market and go to jail for debt," said Boswell. "That is just what I hold," continued the doctor. "I have known men to buy

and buy on an advancing market, and yet go to everlasting smash."
"Sir," said Boswell, "I do not compre-hend how men can sell on a declining

market and lose money."
"Try it, Bozzy, and you will find out. Sell, and the market drops a fraction, then rises several points, and in the cant of the street you are 'frozen out.' crushing you in this fashion it will drop several points below where you made your entree, prepared and primed to repeat the operation. It seeks a lower level after each rise and is a declining market. Should you buy on an advancing market the chances are the moment you make your debut the whole thing goes to pieces. You see panics and mighty losses in sight and you run and take your loss. Then the market rises several points above where you made its

acquaintance."
"But, sir, is it not sound logic to buy
on breaks and sell on rallies?" asked

Boswell.

"The cheap lodging houses are filled with men who are living illustrations of the fact that it is not sound logic. There are, of course, some lucky men and they occasionally take a few dolars out of a bucket-shop, but it is only a question of time when luck succumbs to the inevitable. Luck comes to a lucky man in an emergency, when he recode it most but the man who believes Boswell. needs it most, but the man who believes he can continually and profitably play luck against percentage is on the road to

"I believe in luck. I carry orange peeling in my pocket and never pass a post without touching it. There is a story that I believe in ghosts. My observations in formed the acquaintance of a retired the arena of minor speculation convinces me that there are ghosts. These bucket shops are filled with ghosts; ghosts of dead ambition, ghosts of lost opportunities.
These victims have been dead for years
and do not know it. The bucket-shop and do not know it. The bucket-shop habit is certainly the most destructive vice ever evolved by man to ruin man. The gambler who has the horse racing habit, the poker playing habit, or the faro habit, has a chance, but the poor devil who has the bucket-shop habit has the financial rabbles."

Boswell, the writer, looked puzzled, "Sir," said he "how would you define the word 'speculation?"

"I have defined it in my dictionary," re-plied the doctor, "but in order that your dull understanding shall grasp the full meaning of it, I will define it again." Boswell took a fresh grip on his note

"Speculation," said the doctor, "is buying something you do not want, and sell-ing it for something you haven't got, in the hope of profiting by the fluctuation

in the price. "Sir," said Boswell, "you know I am Boswell, the writer, who wrote your 'Life' and thus saved you from the obscurity which enshrouds Churchill, Shenstone obscurity Savage and others who believed they were savage and others who believed they were immortal. Answer me this: Is there no way to 'beat' a bucket-shop? I do not mean to 'assault' or 'strike,' as you would define the word in your dictionary. but I mean 'to skin,' to relieve of surplus wealth, as the more moderns have it."

"Yes, there is one way to beat a bucket-top," replied the sage. "The way to do Bozzy, is to stay away from it. There is to stay away from it. There er way. The longer you try to no other way. You have written me down in your Life as a philosopher. I hope I have some You have written me down in your Life as a philosopher. I hope I have some claims to that character. Now, listen. If you enter into an intrigue with a bucket-shop you will not only lose all the money you made on my 'Life,' but will be forced to part with Anlinchek. You know you refer to yourself on nearly every page of my 'Life' as the 'heir of Aulinchek.' If you try to win the favors of the goddess who presides over a bucket-shop you will be the heir to penury, misery and disease. It is, if you will pardon me, in the cant of the street, 'a game of heads I win and tails you lose.' The market is controlled by 'sure thing players,' and they are millionaires, Bozzy. They put it up and down, and it is off such as you they wax fat. I am not talking to you now in the pollysylables so dear to your bears. in the pollysylables so dear to your t. The men who control the commodity have the money, not you or your

ilk. Bozzy.

Then Dr. Johnson rolled away in his peculiar gait, and Boswell, the writer, was left alone standing before the blackboard. Now, Boswell, the writer, was curious and he resolved to learn for himself it or tradition indorsed the sentiments of the great man whom he Boswell believed some scheme could be evolved to beat a bucket-shop. He began to haunt them and to talk with the habitues. He learned all about the wisible supply," "primary receipts," "seaboard clearances" and "home consumption." He mastered statistics enough to crush a life insurance agent. These statistics were strange and pecu-liar. At one and the same moment Bos fine. At one and the same moment Bos-well could draw on them and prove the market should go up or down. It such cases it usually did not move, and there were statistics for that, too. Every-thing was statistics or fractions. His midnight slumbers were disturbed by riotous quarters and eights. He deter-mined to find a man who had "skinned" a bucket-shop and confound his friend bucket-shop and confound his friend by Johnson. Boswell, the writer,

who had taken money from bucket-shops who had taken money from oucket-shops, but upon further investigation he learned that these men had put in thousands and were content to take out handreds. These same hundreds went back and the same men were content with tens. He discovered that the bucket-shop business was flourishing. Some of the board of trade firms, with suites of offices in that palace of speculation, had been ac-cused of doing a bucket-shop business. They have leased wires strung over the Northwest and the Southwest, and bucket-shops hang from these leased wires like fish from a trout line. They have leased wires to Wall street, but not half of their Wall street orders are not half of their Wall street orders are sent over these wires. Boswell, the writer, learned that the man who speculates in the wildcats now killing Wall street believes in good faith that when he buys "Sugar" or "St. Paul" the order is executed on the New York stock exchange. It surely ought to have been executed, as the man pays a quarter commission and is usually fleeced out of another quarter before the order is filled. If a buying order it is always filled at the highest quotation announced after the order is given; if a selfing order, ifter the order is given; if a selling order, it the lowest.

What is true of stocks was found qually true of cereals. Many orders equally true of cereals. Many orders for 'five" and "ten" wheat were put down in the books and never executed n he pit.

the pit.

Boswell observed that the backet-shop paid big rent, paid heavy tolls to telegraph companies, that backet-shopping is a violation of law, and yet makes tremendous profits. He saw "sure thing" book-makers give up the race track and go into the backet-shop business. He noticed that old gamblers had quit brace fare and abandoned the "cold" poker deck to flourish in backet-shops. He saw the man who manipulated shells at the county fair, the bunce man, the the county fair, the bunco man, the "green goods" man and confidence man, all in the bucket-shop business.

"Surely," said Boswell, the writer, "this must be a great game." He had not yet given up his quest for the man who had made a winning. He followed every clue and at last one day he encountered The

"I understand, sir," said Boswell, "that you once made a large sum of money in a bucket-shop." "I did," said The Man. "I ran a shoe

string up to \$1500." "I don't quite catch your meaning—the shoe string part," said Boswell. "I mean," said The Man, "that I ran \$10 up to \$1500." "You are just the man I have been look-ing for," said Boswell; "tell me how you did it."

"It's not a long story," said The Man.
'At that time I was new in the business. 'At that time I was new in the business.
I went into a bucket shop one day and decided to buy some wheat. It was July wheat. You know those slips of paper, one for buying and one for selling, on which you jot down your play? Well, which you jot down your play? Well, I took what I thought was the buying slip and gave the shark at the window my \$10. The market broke 3 points in an hour, and I was about to tear up that alleged contract when I read it over and found I had sold the wheat. I closed it I closed it and sold some more, and made money. They told me it would make things handier or the bookkeeper to leave my profits with them. I sold and bought, making many mistakes, but somellow winning, remember the last deal. I went up to with them. obuy. The shark said gruffly, 'Did you say buy?' I thought it hurt his feelings and I said, 'No, sell.' Well that market instantly fell like a good man from grace, and I cleared up \$1500. I came down the next day to get it, but the bucket-shop man and the shark had closed up and whitnest."

"Didn't you get anything?" "No, nobody got anything. I lost the \$10 I began with. I went to see a law-yer and he said I couldn't do anything, as I freely gave the shark my money to handle. Then The Man fastened his handle. eyes on the blackboard, and Boswell, the writer, retired, disappointed.

bucket-shop man, who was spending part of \$100,000 he had made in the few years was in the business, in buying Louis XIV furniture and scarce editions of old

"I have tried to find a man who has 'beaten' a bucket-shop," said Boswell to him one day, "and I have failed. Now, will you tell me how the bucket-shop beats the other fellow? My friend, Dr. Johnson, outlined it in a crude way, but I want it official."

"Now that I have quit the business and retired," said This Man, "I have no objection to telling you how it is done, Boswell. In every gambling game there are 100 small players to every big player. You'll see this illustrated at race tracks and gambling houses. No man who conducts a gambling game likes to encounter a plunger. The dealer of square fare does not like a plunger. The plunger may not have much capital, but he is liable to win 10,000 per cent of his investment in short order if he has luck. If he goes broke the bank will win but little. The bucket-shop men, in their game, have barred the plungers; they cater to the little fellows and get all the money. The average bucket-shop player never quits until he is 'dead broke every dollar he secures afterward is staked in the hope of making a profitable turn. So, you see, once you get them you have them forever. They are a source of revenue for all time. They pay better than government bonds. If one of them wins he wins but little, and if he loses he continues until he loses everything. There are fortunes in the bucket-shop commissions alone, and this is increased by the sandbagging rule charging interest for carrying 'long stocks. A bucket-shop often hedges. and that is where the leased wires come in. If a bucket-shop takes in 100,000 bushels, say, of long wheat and does not like to carry it, the stuff is instantly bedged through some board of trade

The bucket-shop business is killing the market. "There are always in the country ten buils to one bear. If the small orders that are executed all over the country every day in bucket-shops could be bunched and executed on the board of trade you would see a bull market and a range of three points a day in wheat, The bucket-shop gets all the country bulls' money, while the professional bear on the board of trade keeps hammering the market down. The country is not on the board of trade any more; it is in the bucket-shop. The country could sell and make a profit, but very few farmers ever go 'short' of a speculative commodity. They do many things, but they never sell wheat, corn or pork, except

close a deal.
"I began bucket-shopping on a capital of \$500. That was pretty thin, wasn't it? Yet it won a fortune. I rented an office in one of the big buildings and only dealt with out-of-town customers. office in one of the big buildings and only dealt with out-of-town customers. I had no ticker the first week, but I had a boy and a blackboard. I sent circulars out in the country, showing how fortunes could be made with little capital. If there is one proposition on earth that will catch a "enclor" it is the chart of the catch a "enclor" it is the chart of the catch a "enclor" it is the chart of the catch a "enclor" it is the chart of the catch a "enclor" it is the chart of the catch a "enclor" in the catch a "enclor" it is the catch a "enclor" in the catch a "enclor" it is the catch a "enclor" in catch a 'sucker' it is the 'how to get rich quick scheme.' When you can convince a man that he can make something out of nothing you can command all he has. Orders came to me by mail accompanied by money. There was always a delay in the mail, if such a delay meant a profit for me. If I got an order that I did not like to carry I hedged it, took commissions and a profit. If a man had a paper profit on my books I advised him not to ouit, but to continue. nd confound his friend | One man once won \$1000 and I kept putting him off until he finally came to town. y men. He found men Once in the office, I induced him to make

another deal, and that settled the \$1000. "The man who is bent on trying the bucket-shop game and who has resisted the entreaties of his friends can expedite matters and reach the same result by a simple little plan. This is not given in any of the 'manuals,' but it might be in-serted under the title 'How to Trade in a Bucket-shop.' Take all the money you Bucket-shop.' Take all the money you possess and do it up in a neat package. Add to this all the money your family possesses and all you can borrow. Then take your surplus clothing, sell it for what can get and add this money to the original quantity. Carefully pick out the bucket-shop proprietor you most incline to, take him the money, wish him a merry Christmas, borrow a nickel to pay your car fare home, and go there.
"This operation might be termed 'rapid

conversion, and has a distinct advantage No time is lost in making the transfer o money and the 'operator' reaches poverty at once while he has some recuperative spirit left, without dragging through the feverish and enervating hours that usually interevene before he reaches the same in evitable end.

The "little book" is a great heip to the bucket-shop. This contains a full expla-nation of how the thing is done, and the reader emerges from its pages with a feeling of pity for the people he is about to "literally rob" of vast fortunes. It's so "easy" he almost hesitates to impose on the confiding frankness of the men who sent him the "little book."

The bucket-shop man thereupon handed Boswell a pamphlet entitled, "How to Speculate." Boswell went home, read the pamphlet, and, meeting his friend, Dr. Johnson, talked to him about it.

The introduction of the book is designed to inflate the reader with the dignity of the operations, as, for example, in the fol lowing extract:

The fact that large sums of money are realized in speculation every year by thousands of operators in all sections of the country, and the knowledge of the vast fortunes which have been accumulated through grain and stock speculations by those great operators whose names are identified with Wall and LaSalle streets, have naturally resulted in attracting al most unusual attention to the markets in bringing prominently before the public the opportunities for profits which judicious speculation continually affords.

This generally transforms the reader into a "bloated bondholder" in his mind in about a minute, but to perfect the condition of hopeless financial imbecility the next sentence is a clincher;

That magic word of the commerce of all ages—at whose command cities, gov-ernments and the greatest works of man have been built-that great lubricant the wheels of commerce, which always has been and always will be where brain rises superior to brawn, fostered by hope and encouraged by Success—is the subject of our "Little Book."

The reader of the "little book" is de igned for the real lubricant of the wheels signed for the real indirect of the wheels of the bucket-shop commerce, and he is about ready to fulfill the appointment with fate when he has read through this climax of the "Introduction."

Both sacred and profane history speak Both sacred and protane instory speak of the success attending the speculator and his deals. The first one in our line and probably most successful of all times was the loading of the ark by Noah, the next one was a deal in Egyptian corn by Joseph, which lasted se

And so on down to the days of our own speculative princes, such as Armour, Jould, Rockefeller, Mackay and others too numerous to mention, whose names are quite as familiar and suggestive as Aladdin's of old.

Our modern speculators are without exception examples of the "mighty oaks from little acorns grow," and our object in this issue is to increase the number of mighty oaks."

The airy classing of Noah, Joseph, Armour and Rockefeller as examples of speculative princes is worthy of bucket-shop effrontery. It is delightfully harwhom it is intended, and he takes it as a serious historical coincidence and expects to join the combination.

It will be noticed in these from the "little book" that there is no such word as "fail." This is true of the remainder of the introduction and the remainder of the book. This is intended as a subtle compliment to "The Bright Lexicon of Youth," which, in this re-

pect, the book closely imitates.
All this, however, is designed to sim-ly "jolly" the intended victim, and after a few perfunctory explanations the book gets down to figures in a way that makes the reader's palms itch. These makes the reader's palms itch. come in the chapter devoted to "The Profits of Speculation." This opens with a reference to a dozen or so of the famous millionaires of the country coupled with the following insidious comment:

No one supposes these men made their many millions by hard work simply and by the process of savings banks (excel-lent and honorable institutions, but too slow for the go-ahead American, who can not but see that they have the best of the bargain in the use of his money. No; it may as well be told. The great financial kings of the North American continent made their millions in specuation, and presumably they don't care who knows it

Then come the figures: The present year saw one of the mos extraordinary periods of activity and ap-preciation which Wall street has ever enjoyed. Men made money in anything, and not a few who began with next to nothing came out with thousands ahead We know of one trader who began ing a stock at about 35 and kept closing out and buying again all the way 50. He began with \$20 capital, with which he bought 20 shares, closing out which he bought 20 shares, closing out when a profit appeared, and adding such profit to his capital, buying larger lots every time. In about six weeks he made nty-three odd hundreds of dollars. It would pay almost anyone to do a very

small part of what he did. This style of illustration, taken at random, of course, from the books of the bucket-shop, is repeated in various forms several times through the book, always closing with: "It would pay anyone to do a small part of what he did." Nothing could be simpler—except—the

victim.

Then follows a literary campaign of Then follows a literary campaign of education. There is a chapter on "Terms of the Street," very neat and pretty, with "bulls" and "bears" and "puts" and "calls" made so plain that anyone can understand. Then there is something about "futures," clear and explicit, with a reticence only as to the future of the victim. This is all very business like and serious just like a real business like and serious, just like a real live transaction of mutual profit, and there is never a hint of the title that fits the case: "How the Lamb Will Be Fleeced.

Then come "hints and rules to traders a grain and stocks."

The chief hint is: "You bring the money and we'll do the rest," and the only rule is: "You can keep this up until you are broke." you are broke."

Of course, the "little book" doesn't say this, and the victim never guesses it. He drinks in such aphorisms as "Rumor is a bad thing to go by." "Buy on a panic," "Sell on a boom," "Have Courage," "Re Quick to act," 'You can send money by mail or telegraph." and "Thoragan are changes to real the property of the prope

"There are chances to make money in the market every day."

He thinks they all affect him person-

ally, and is especially impressed with the final comment in the chapter: By our method of trading-that is

taking whatever you have got and all you have got in whatever quantities we can get it—you can buy and sell small lots with as much advantage and the same facility as large ones.

This is a picturesque fact. The victim can get as much advantage out of small lots as he can out of large lots. Probably more-he may not lose

For fear the "trader" may not know how to get his money to the bucket-shop in the most direct way there is some "general information" in the little book to thoroughly post him. The man who lives away from the city is tenderly cared for also in this chapter with this pleasing information;
It is a mistaken idea that those pres

ent at every session can trade to better advantage than those who send their or-ders by mail or wire. Those who are ders by mail or wire. Those who are away from the bustle and turmoil of the exchange ("exchange is a place where a bucket-shop exchanges experience for money") and the surroundings can form a safer and more reliable opinion of the market and trade with more chances of success than if present, where they necessarily are more or less influenced by the many conflicting rumors always in the air. The experience of brokers (this is the commodity they have in large quantities for the purposes of exchange) is that their country department averages more successful operators than their

ity.

Moral—If you live in the country be a

ountry operator.

But if you happen to be unfortunate nough to live in the city, the book says: It is desirable to be close to the scene of trading, to watch the changes closely so as to jump in and get your profits as

soon as the price warrants.

Perhaps, therefore, if you live in the city, it might be better to be a city operator.
It is understood, of course, by all except

the victim, that what the bucket-shop is after is any operator.

Chapters on "How to Trade," "Margins," "Commissions," "Commodities and Quantities" and "Making Trades" then follow in rapid succession. Each has a different physical but each easy the different phraseology, but each says the same thing:

"Bring us your money; we'll show you how to run up.' And it never comes down.

After the reader has become saturated After the reader has become saturated with this assurance of prospective wealth he is ready for the closing chapter on "Pyramiding." The salient feature of this is as follows:

Pyramiding is a modern term used to express the idea and process of building up from a comparatively small beginning by increasing one's holdings as the market advances or declines. In other ket advances or declines. In other words, it is forcing one's profits as fast as the market will permit. The method to be pursued is as follows: With \$50 or \$100 buy 5000 bushels of

grain or 50 shares of stock on 1 or 2 per cent margin. When the market advances 1 1-2 cents, showing a net profit of \$50, buy 5060 bushels more. An advance of another 1 1-8 cents, will show a further profit of \$100, with which buy 10,000 bushels, when an advance of another 1 1-8 cents shows a further profit of \$200, and so on. Starting with 5000 bushels, an ndvance of 9 cents a bushel will make a net profit of \$12,750, besides our commis

sion of 1-8 cent a bushel.

This is a fascinating proposition.

It shrinks somewhat before the fundamental fact in trading that when a market rises slowly nine points it has never been known to do so without a temporary "break" somewhere along the line, which would wipe out the "pyramider," and if it avoids the break it does so by a rise so fast that it would be impossible to make the sales and subsequent purchases in time to keep pace with the rise.

The bucket-shop force can only run up to the time the regular board closes, which is early, at 1:15 p. m. This is unfortu-nate, for it frequently happens that there are victims who still have money left and who may be tempted to spend some of it before the shop opens again in the morn-ing. This would be manifestly a distinct loss to the bucket-shop, so in many cases there is a side adjunct to correct this leak. This has become known as the "clock ame." It flourishes independently as game." well and raises its head with great show of respectability in many parts of the business district from sumptuous offices. It has all the outward appearances of the bucket-shop, with blackboard, tape, stocks and "suckers," but shorn of the entangling alliances statistics as to grains and markets

and foreign dispatches.
It is purely a game of chance, or, rath er, no chance for the operator. There are certain allged "mining stocks" listed on the blackboard. A sum of figures for ups and downs of each "stock" are printed at random on the tape. This tape is run out at intervals of a minute or so, and the victim guesses whether the next quotation on a given "stock" will be up or down, as he pleases, and, winning or los-ing accordingly, minus a fixed "commis-sion" to the house.

These listed stocks on the blackboard are purely imaginary. They are "stocks

If "T. T." (Too Tough) is quoted on the poard at 194 he does not have to get mixed up with Too Tough's past history in order to properly speculate on what Tough will do next. Too Tough is an orphan without ancestry or history and s decidedly on the fence at 194, ready to

op either way. Then there is "T. G. C." on the board with enough figures under it to endow an elementary arithmetic. Perchance the follower of fortune would dally with "Y. A. C." or "D. W. G." or "B. T. L.," or some one of the other kindred "mines," The same airy look of intelligence and a little cash are all that is required to sat sfy the ambition.

The city is full of men and boys pos

sessing these qualifications and they keep the places full, groups replacing groups as fast as the money gives out. Big signs announce that "Minors are not al-lowed." This should not be taken too lowed." This should not be taken too literally. It refers only to those who are "too minor," as, for instance, to babes in arms. They are liable to cry and, besides, do not have any money.

There are picturesque features in the clock game that only the disinterested spectator can appreciate.

Neatly printed forms are arranged at the sides of the main blackboard, in which the nimble "writer" inserts the amount of "visible supply" of wheat and "consols in London.

Bucket-shops thrive on all kinds of patronage. More than 200 are now flourishing in Chicago. These 200 do in the aggregate as much business as the board of trade, yet this immense buying power has no influence on the market. Nearly every town of more than 10,000 inhabi in the West has its bucket-shop, The place of business in the city is usual some office building easy of access. Two blackboards and two tickers the chief articles of furniture. One black board is devoted to New York stocks where "gas," "tobacco" and "sugar" de the ground and lofty tumbling. The oth er board shows the fluctuations in the price of the commodities dealt in on the Chicago board of trade. One ticker gives Wall street quotations and the other Chicago board of trade quotations. A boy who has learned to decipher the tape chalks up the quotations and the game is open. The victims are always prompt. is open. The victims are always prompt They are on hand for the first tick of the

There are several types of the backet shop speculator. There is the clerk who leaves his work for a few minutes, who leaves his work for a rew land dashes in, leaves his week's salary in the bucket-shop in the belief that he has to double it. There is the a chance to double it. There is young man just inoculated with the

fever, the old broken-down speculator who once dealt in 100,000 bushels of wheat, but owing to the strength of the game he is now forced to be content game he is now forced to be content with 1000, which a \$10 bill will margin seven-eights of 1 per cent. He has a bucket-shop face. It is pale, drawn and bloodless. He has been buffeted by ill fortune until his blood and marrow are gone, and he has about as much energy as a mummy. The bucket-shop face is soon acquired and is never lost. Another type is the middle-aged man who has had many ups and downs. He has been in many kinds of business and usually failed. He knows a thing or two about speculation and he is always usually failed. He knows a thing or two about speculation and he is always waiting for the best of it. He hangs over the ticker and absorbs the infor-mation it conveys. He is prematurely gray, seedy and taciturn. If he has a fancy for stocks he watches them like a hawk and at the first sign of weakness or strength he is ready to sell or buy ten shares. Sometimes he saves his commission by intuition. But the bucket-shop crushes him and usually refuses to trade on the quotations. In fact, it will refuse to take his trade. This is one of the beauties of the bucket-shop. No new orders will be executed on a panicky market. When the bucket-shop proprietor and his patron are of the opinion that a stock will fluctuate over

a wide range in a short time the bucket-shop will not trade in that stock. The countryman is another type that haunts the bucket-shop. He goes on the theory that because no wheat or hogs were raised in his township there are none in the world. This man has been buying on a falling market for four the state of the heavy has nothing now but experience. years. He has nothing now but experi-

The new woman is daft on gambling and she is a regular victim of bucket-shops. There are said to be three bucket-shops in Chicago that are support-ed solely by women.—Chicago Times-Herald.

MANITOBA SCHOOL QUESTION. Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 23.—The Mani-toba legislature has been dissolved and an appeal to the country will be made on the school issue. Polling will take place on January 15.

Premier Greenway, in an address on

the question, says:
"I assent that our people are perfectly competent to deal with their own edu-cational concerns, and I resent the imputation that they have treated any portion of the community with injustice or in a spirit of intolerance. I protest against the proposed action of the dominion government inviting parliament to destroy our National school system without investigating and in ignorance of the circumstances.

INOCULATED BY SNAKE POISON. Immunity From Harm Enjoyed "Charmers" of Serpents.

As a result of recent investigations, it seem that science had at last unearthed the strange secret of the snake charmer. For years it has been a mystery how certain individuals could handle the since, it was suggested that this immunity suffering not the slightest harmful effects, even if bitten repeatedly. Some time since, it was suggested that this immunity from the evil effects of the poison might be due to the fact that the charmers have frequently been accidentally bitten by cobras and karits, and, having survived the first attack, experienced no evil effect from subsequent bites. Much attention has been directed in India to the experi-Much attention ments which have lately been made view to determine the value of this theory, and it has been clearly shown that when the venom is introduced into the system in gradually increasing doses the subject need not fear the vicious fangs

of the reptile.

Cases of immunity from scorpion stings are also well known. A gentleman in India, hearing of a Mahometan fakir who had established a reputation for himself in this respect, determined to investigate the case and banish, if possible, all chance of trickery. He therefore dug up the scor-pions himself, and these formidable creatures he describes as being from five to seven inches long, with claws like those

of lobsters. These scorpions the fakir was told to irritate, but to avoid adopting the course usually pursued by the fakirs for this purpose, namely, by pinching the end of the tail. This is almost a sure way of preventing the scorpions from stinging touching them on the part of the body dicated, each one of them stung him strongly enough to draw blood, but the man was apparently none the worse. no doubt as to the genuine-There could be ness of the exhibition and the fakir was believed when he said that he had frequently been the victim of a scorpion's

Civil servic reform, like Dr. Price's Baking Powder, has merit for a basis,

BALLARD'S SNOW LINIMENT. This liniment is different in composi-tion from any other liniment on the market. It is a scientific discovery, which results in its being the most penetrating liniment known. There are numerous white immitations which may be recommended because they pay the seller a great profit. Beware of these and de-mand Ballard's Snow Liniment. It pos-itively cures rheumatism, neuralgia, sprains, bruises, wounds, cuts, sciatic and inflammatory rheumatism, burns, scalds, sore feet, contracted muscles, stiff joints, old sores, pain in back, barb wire cut, sore chest or throat, and is especialy beneficial in paralysis. Sold by C. O. Yates, 219 E. 6th St.

VERY PANICKY.

The City of Brotherly Love Much Excited Financially.

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 21.—Philadelphia has had its full share of disastrous inancial depressions for the past week. This was a never-to-be-forgotten day in banking and speculative circles. Banking houses and brokers' offices presented scenes of activity seldom witnessed. They were crowded with anxious faces and nervous figures. Many individual spec-ulators were ruined and one brokerage house succumbed—L. H. Taylor & Co. The failure involves a number of specula tors who speculated through the firm. No statement of assets and liabilities can be obtained, but the figures are large both ways. It is not believed the firm will resume. The loss during the week on stocks exclusively listed by the Philadelthia exchange is estimated at nearly \$50,-000,000,

TWO LIVES SAVED.

Mrs. Phoebe Thomas of Junction City, Ill., was told by her doctors she had con-sumption and that there was no hope for her, but two bottles of Dr. King's New Discovery completely cured her and she says it saved her life. Mr. Thos. Eggers, 139 Florida St., San Francisco, suffered from a dreadful cold, approaching con-sumption, tried without result everything else, then bought one bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery and in two weeks was cured. He is naturally thankful. It is such results, of which these are samples, that prove the wonderful efficacy of this medicine in coughs and colds. Free trial bottle at C. O. Yates' drug store. Regular size, 50c and \$1.00.

KILLED WITH AN AX.
Matamoras, Mex., Dec. 22.—(Special.)
Andres Dastilo, ranchero, was found dyog in the road near town yesterday ay wounds in his head. without being able to name his assailants. Two Mexican boys were arrested charged with the deed.

BLOCKADE RUNNER

HE GAINED A LARGE FORTE DURING THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES.

HIS LIFE LIKE A TALE OF ROMAN

Fled From England to Escape Am and Began Life Anew in America Under an Assumed Name-Lost His Fortune Speculating.

Two men were the only mourners at the Woodlawn cemetery yesterday at the neral service over the body of Alexan Collie, a man who a few years ago a known in every European capital the Civil war he was a noted blocks runner, who established quarters will be will of luxury. Never did champagne be so freely, never was hospitality me-lavish than in the home of the "Blocks King." There the leaders of the Som ern Confederacy met to take counsel in gether.

Collie, who at one time could have drawn his check for millions of dol' drawn his check for millions of dol' died a few days ago almost destit and his funeral expenses were paid the son of an old friend. He died a the Colonial hotel, in One Hundred as Twenty-fifth street, on November 12 But for the fact that through son friends he had been able to college a sec-But for the fact that through sin friends he had been able to collect a sma amount on an old bill he would have

been unable to pay his board bill. There is no name on the coffin plate for he died under the assumed name George McNeil.

MADE MONEY FAST.

Wilmington, N. C., was noted in the Civil war for its blockade runners, and Civil war for its blockade runners, and famous Fort Fisher, at the mouth of Cape Fear river, commanded then by a young Virginia officer, Colonel William Lamb, was the favorite gateway into the harbor. Among the English houses who were engaged in blockade running, and working by far the largest floot of wilends. owning by far the largest fleet of splends steamers, was that of Alexander Coll-& Co., the reputation and high commecial standing of which was at the time world wide. Their vessels were the fa-est, fleetest and best equipped for the service for which they were designed, eluding the United States blockadher cruisers.

cruisers. Alexander Collie's home in London, situated in Kensington Gardens, was one of princely hospitality. It was gorgeous ly fitted up, had a corps of liveried ser-ants, and the entertainments given there were on the most extravagant and laws scale. This grand establishment was specially made the home of Confederate officials and friends of the Confederate in England, and Mr. Collie had often as his guests ex-United States Senator J. M. Mason, the Confederate commissioner to England, and Mr. Slidell, the Confederate representative to France. In Wilmington, N. C., the firm leased one of the hand

somest houses in that city. A GIGANTIC FAILURE. Following their successful trade and speculations during the war, Alexander Collie & Co. went into the cotton and cotton goods trade, establishing branch houses in Egypt, British India, Austra-lia and South America. Operations were begun on a gigantic scale, and in the markets of the world, somewhere in the early 70's, Collie made the largest failure known in the history of com-merce. His liabilities above his avail-

able assets were £40,000,000, equivalent to \$200,000,000. Alexander Collie, the head of the ouse, who was held responsible for the failure, had to flee from England, and he was spirited away to the private yacht of a friend, in which he sailed to Barcelona, Spain. His flight from England. land caused an immense sensation, and though pursued by creditors and dete-tives he successfully eluded them. From Spain he went direct to South America and in a few years reappeared at the White Sulphur Springs as a traveling artist—George McNeil by name. He was there recognized by George Peteria Grant, a wealthy Englishman, who own

a handsome estate on which he built : beautiful residence about two miles from the springs.

Mr. Grant kept Collie's secret, and be remained in that vicinity for several years. He afterward went to Richmond, where, owing to his knowledge of finances, he became associated with the late Col. H. C. Pasons, James G. Blaine. General Butler and others in the Rich mond and Alleghany railroad, which corporation acquired the famous James river and Kanawha canal in Virginia and which had for its roadbed the too

DIED IN POVERTY. Prosperous for a time, he projects other railroads, but misfortune seemed to follow him, and finally he became again embarrassed, and, comparativel without means, came to this city.

One of the strangest things in come, tion with the blockeds, king was the tion with the blockade king was the although he lived in comparative pover; in New York, his wife was living b luxury in London As Alexander Calif he was supposed to have been lost at sea

path of the canal.

He evidently made some disposition of some property in favor of his wife and went to a life of obscurity and povert He was burned out of the Harlem fat where he lived several months a went to live at the Colonial hotel. them Richard Lamb, eldest son of Colonel Lamb, of Fort Fisher. These men experienced much diculty in aiding

im on account of his pride.

Mr. Collie claimed to be the inventor of the manufacture of glucose,-

Save worry and labor by using Price) Cream Baking Powder.

WHAT A PROMINENT INSURANCE

MAN SAYS.

H. M. Blossom, senior member of B.
M. Blossom & Co., 217 N, Third stret.
St. Louis, writes: I had been left with! very distressing cough, the result of its fluenza, which nothing seemed to relien until I took Ballard's Horehound Symponic bottle completely cured me. I see one bottle to my sister, who had a sere cough, and she experienced immediate r lief. I always recommend this syrup

John Cranston, 908 Hampshire stre Quincy, Ill., writes: I have found B lard's Horehound Syrup superior to all other cough medicine I have ever known It never disappoints. Price Ade. by C. O. Yates 219 East Sixth street.

PERUVIAN NEWS. Lima, Peru, via Galveston, Dec. 22.
The law for the regulation of foreign insurance companies has been signed.

Colored Colleges with the college with Colonel Collazes, who is charged with the cause of the religious riots Cuaco, has been suspended.